Rome oct 14. 1864

My dear Charley

I heard with much pleasure that you had recovered from the bad attack of Carbuncle which I dear also once afflicted with – I know you suffered great anguish, poor fellow! for I never in my life had such affliction & I was 6 months or Gatter before I got well

I hope that your dear wife is now quite well for you have had great troubles & I trust you may now be steering into a pleasant calm like me, for perhaps those cares are

just upon us that we may well appreciate the good fortune when we chance to get it — I am glad I be able to send you a good account of myself, both as to my health & doings & that although the cares are numerous & novel, yet I am well able to battle the "bull by the horns"

What a singular destiny was left for me! who could have reckoned that I should have been equal to it! I feel there cannot be doubt that I was made for it, for I succeed at every point however difficult & apparently impossible — But now my task is a very responsible one, for now acting as Consul for the King of Italy I seem

a Rome & Mediator between Turin & Rome
& you'd be delighted to see how much
good I am able to do —

Eleanor often speaks of her excellent
uncle Charles — we are pleasant
companions & often talk of him & he is
delighted with her Roman life, we
passed all the Summer in Rome &
I always went out before 7 to buy
my fruit, with a sportsman's basket
slung over my shoulder — my painting
& compass rather conspicuous for the
Italian artists take up my whole
mind & I assure you the great
compliment of all parties being pleased
with my dress — except a little chagrin
of English ones who are envious of
the proud position I have by degrees